721 temporary ritual privileges in the important Nambudiri-managed temples of alien kingdoms. Several times rights in such a temple were obtained by an alien ruler, and held for a period of years at the cost of repeated battles with the king within whose territory the temple stood.

643 701 664 The power of the king to command his Nayar retainers was checked by periodic assemblies of Nayars (koottams). If the king's foreign policy were disfavoured by the Nayars of a particular nad, or if their own chief failed to pay them promptly, the village military leaders, with some of their followers, assembled in a body called a nad koottam and threatened to defect to some alien ruler. This occasionally happened: cases are recorded of the defection of a whole nad from one ruler to another. Similarly within the desam, small assemblies called desa-koottams might force their policy on their local leader or stage a strike until they compelled him to pay them their dues.

692 681 Within the kingdom, justice was administered at several levels. First, each local caste group had its own periodic assembly of adult men to punish offences against caste law [33] and to arbitrate in small civil disputes within the caste. For the larger castes of Iravas and Pulayas the local caste group was the village: married men met periodically to arrange public ceremonies of their caste and punish offenders. These comprised chiefly wrongful interdining, small debts, thefts and assaults within the caste, and intra-caste adultery. Fines for the upkeep of the caste